

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**Canteen Package Program**

**for**

**Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections**

**Corrections Services**

**Prison Enterprises**



**File Number: B3000016866P**

**Solicitation Number: 3000016866**

**Proposal Opening Date: May 13, 2021**

**Proposal Opening Time: 10:00 A.M. CT**

**State of Louisiana  
Office of State Procurement**

**April 6, 2021**

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# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR**

## **Canteen Package Program**

### **PART I: ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to obtain competitive proposals as allowed by Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1595 from bona fide, qualified Proposers who are interested in providing a customized offender Canteen Package Program.

#### **1.2 Background**

The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C), Division of Prison Enterprises (PE) serves the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the State of Louisiana by employing and training offenders. This training oriented work allows the offenders to return to society with skills that will enable them to become useful and productive citizens.

Louisiana currently houses approximately 19,000 adult offenders incarcerated in the State prison facilities, an additional 20,000 (approximate) sentenced to the DPS&C's custody and housed in local jails, as well as 1,000 (approximate) adults in contract transitional work programs for a total of approximately 40,000 DOC offenders.

The DPS&C PE implemented the initial Canteen Package Program in 2015. The program is currently conducted at Louisiana State Penitentiary, located in Angola, LA and allows for offenders, and offender's friends and family members to purchase a food and hygiene package as well as personal property and clothing package on a quarterly basis. The program has been successful thus far, with all DPS&C facilities across the state participating, and PE would like to continue providing this service for those offenders.

#### **1.3 Goals and Objectives**

DPS&C PE desires to enter into a contract with one (1) Contractor to cooperate in designing, implementing and operating customized offender direct package programs where, on a monthly, quarterly or on any other defined Department schedule, eligible offenders and offenders' friends and family members may order packages of pre-approved products for delivery to the offenders housed in DPS&C facilities. The Contractor will provide full logistics, operations, product and service support for the "Food and Hygiene" package program and the "Personal Property and Clothing" package program.

The resulting contract shall be a no cost contract to the State of Louisiana. Fees for services will be charged by the Contractor to the end users, who are made up of incarcerated offenders, family members, and friends.

## 1.4 Term of Contract

The term of any contract resulting from this solicitation shall be for an initial period of thirty-six (36) months to begin on or about July 1, 2021 and to end June 30, 2024, unless otherwise terminated in accordance with the termination provisions of the Contract. At the option of the State of Louisiana and acceptance of the Contractor, the contract may be extended for two (2) additional twelve (12) month periods at the same prices, terms, and conditions. Total contract time may not exceed sixty (60) months.

## 1.5 Definitions

- A. Agency- Any department, commission, council, board, office, bureau, committee, institution, agency, government, corporation, or other establishment of the executive branch of the State of Louisiana authorized to participate in any contract resulting from this RFP.
- B. Contract – A legal binding agreement between the State and the awarded Contractor(s).
- C. Contractor – Any person having a contract with a governmental body. For sections of this RFP outlining required actions of a Contractor, the Contractor should be understood to refer to the successful Proposer responding to this RFP.
- D. Discussions- For the purposes of this RFP, a formal, structured means of conducting written or oral communications/presentations with responsible Proposers who submit proposals in response to this RFP.
- E. Louisiana State Penitentiary – One of the Department of Corrections State facilities in which the Canteen Package Program is located.
- F. May - The term denotes an advisory or permissible action per La. R.S. 39:1556(33).
- G. Must - The term denotes mandatory requirements.
- H. Pre-approved – Approved by Director of Medical and Chief of Operations to ensure items do not conflict with the Canteen Standards List before the products are offered to offenders.
- I. Proposal – A submission by the Proposer to enter into a Contract with the State to supply and support the products and/or services described, in accordance with the RFP specifications.
- J. Proposer – A firm, venture or individual who responds to this RFP. The successful Proposer responsive to this RFP is also described as the Contractor in this document.
- K. Shall – The term denotes mandatory requirements per La. R.S. 39:1556(52).
- L. Should – The term denotes a desirable action.
- M. State- The State of Louisiana.

### 1.5.1 Acronyms

- A. DOA – Division of Administration
- B. DOC – Department of Corrections
- C. DPS&C – Department of Public Safety & Corrections
- D. OSP – Office of State Procurement
- E. PE – Prison Enterprises
- F. RFP – Request for Proposal

### 1.6 Schedule of Events

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time (CT)</u>
1. RFP posted to LaPAC; and Blackout Period begins	April 6, 2021	
2. Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit	April 21, 2021	
3. Deadline to receive written inquiries	April 23, 2021	
4. Deadline to answer written inquiries	May 4, 2021	
5. Proposal Opening Date (Proposal Submission Deadline)	May 13, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. CT	
6. Oral discussions with Proposers, if applicable	To be scheduled	
7. Best and Final Offer with Proposers, if applicable	To be scheduled	
8. Notice of Intent to Award to be issued	To be scheduled	
9. Contract Initiation	To be scheduled	

**NOTE: The State of Louisiana reserves the right to revise this schedule. Revisions before the Proposal Submission Deadline, if any, will be formalized by the issuance of an addendum to the RFP. Revisions after the Proposal Submission Deadline, if any, will be by written notification to the eligible Proposers.**

### 1.7 Proposal Submittal

This RFP is available in electronic form at the LaPAC website <https://www.cfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/osp/lapac/pubMain.cfm>. It is available in PDF format or in

printed form by submitting a written request to the RFP Contracting Officer with the Office of State Procurement. Contact information for the RFP Contracting Officer is provided in **Section 1.12.2** of this RFP.

It is the Proposer's responsibility to check the Office of State Procurement LaPAC website frequently for any possible addenda that may be issued. The Office of State Procurement is not responsible for a Proposer's failure to download any addenda documents required to submit a response to this Request for Proposal.

Proposers are hereby advised that the U. S. Postal Service does not make deliveries to the Office of State Procurement physical location.

Proposals may be mailed through the U. S. Postal Service to the Office of State Procurement box at:

Office of State Procurement  
P. O. Box 94095  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

If delivering by U.S. Postal Service to the P.O. Box listed above, please allow sufficient time for the mail to then be transmitted to the Office of State Procurement. The Office of State Procurement must receive the proposal at its physical location by the date and time specified in **Section 1.6 Schedule of Events**, of this RFP.

**Important - - Clearly mark outside of envelope, box or package with the following information and format:**

X     **Proposal Name: Canteen Package Program**  
X     **File Number: B3000016866P, Solicitation Number: 3000016866**  
X     **Proposal Opening Date and Time: May 13, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. CT**

**OR**

Proposals may be delivered by hand or courier service to the Office of State Procurement physical location at:

Office of State Procurement  
Claiborne Building  
1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Suite 2-160  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**Important - - Clearly mark outside of envelope, box or package with the following information and format:**

X     **Proposal Name: Canteen Package Program**  
X     **File Number: B3000016866P, Solicitation Number: 3000016866**  
X     **Proposal Opening Date and Time: May 13, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. CT**



Proposers should be aware of security requirements for the Claiborne building and allow time to be photographed and presented with a temporary identification badge.

Proposer is solely responsible for ensuring that its courier service provider makes inside deliveries to the Office of State Procurement physical location. The Office of State Procurement is not responsible for any delays caused by the Proposer's chosen means of proposal delivery. Proposer is solely responsible for the timely delivery of its proposal. Failure to meet the proposal opening date and time shall result in rejection of the proposal.

**OR**

Proposals may also be submitted online by accessing the link on page one (1) of the Request for Proposal.

**NOTE:** Proposers who choose to respond this Request for Proposal online via the vendor portal are encouraged to not submit a written proposal as well.

Proposers are hereby advised that due to the nature of the internet, the State of Louisiana cannot guarantee that access to the LaGov or LaPAC websites will be uninterrupted or that e-mails or other electronic transmissions will be sent to you or received by us. The Office of State Procurement is not responsible for any delays caused by the proposer's choice to submit their proposal online. Proposers is solely responsible for the timely delivery of its proposal. Failure to meet the proposal opening date and time shall result in rejection of the proposal.

All proposals shall be received by the Office of State Procurement **no later than the date and time shown in the Schedule of Events.**

**NOTE: FAX, EMAIL OR ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

**PROPOSALS SHALL BE OPENED PUBLICLY AT THE PHYSICAL LOCATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE AND ONLY THE NAME OF THE PROPOSERS SUBMITTING PROPOSALS SHALL BE IDENTIFIED ALOUD. NO OTHER INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE PROPOSAL SHALL BE RELEASED OR DISCLOSED.**

### **1.8 Proposal Response Format**

Proposals submitted for consideration should follow the format and order of presentation described below:

- A. **Cover Letter:** The cover letter should be submitted on the Proposer's official business letterhead and should exhibit the Proposer's understanding and approach to the project. It should contain a summary of Proposer's ability to perform the services described in the RFP and confirm that Proposer is willing to perform those services and enter into a contract with the State.

**ATTENTION:** Please indicate in the Cover Letter which of the following applies to the signer of the proposal. Evidence of signature authority shall be provided upon the State's request.

1. The signer of the proposal is either a corporate officer who is listed on the most current annual report on file with the Secretary of State **or** a member of a partnership or partnership in commendam as reflected in the most current partnership records on file with the Secretary of State. **A copy of the annual report or partnership record must be submitted to the Office of State Procurement before contract award.**
2. The signer of the proposal is a representative of the Proposer authorized to submit the proposal as evidenced by documents such as, corporate resolution, certification as to corporate principal, etc. **If this applies a copy of the resolution, certification or other supportive documents should be attached to the Cover Letter.**
3. The Proposer has filed with the Secretary of State an affidavit **or** resolution **or** other acknowledged/authentic document indicating that the signer is authorized to submit proposals for public contracts. **A copy of the applicable document must be submitted to the Office of State Procurement before contract award.**
4. The signer of the proposal has been designated by the Proposer as authorized to submit proposals on the Proposer's vendor registration on file with the Office of State Procurement.

The cover letter should also:

- Identify the submitting Proposer and provide their federal tax identification number;
  - Identify the name, title, address, telephone number, fax number, and email address of each person authorized by the Proposer to contractually obligate the Proposer;
  - Identify the name, address, telephone number, fax number, and email address of the contact person for technical and contractual clarifications throughout the evaluation period.
- B. **Table of Contents:** Organized in the order cited in the format contained herein.
  - C. **Proposer's Qualifications:** History and background of Proposer, financial strength and stability, related services provided to government entities, existing customer satisfaction, volume of merchants, etc.
  - D. **Approach and Methodology:** Illustrating and describing proposed technical solution and compliance with the RFP requirements. The Proposer's proposal response should give detailed responses to all the requirements and not just include a response of Yes and/or No.
  - E. **Service and Support Requirements:** Proposer will provide detailed information describing how service and support requirements will be conducted during the contract.
  - F. **Innovative Concepts:** Presentation of innovative concepts, if any, for consideration.

- G. **Implementation/Orientation Plan:** Detailed schedule of implementation plan for pilot (if applicable) and full statewide or agency implementation. This schedule is to include implementation actions, timelines, responsible parties, etc.
- H. **Financial Proposal:** Proposer's Commissions of Gross Sales shall be submitted in accordance with **Attachment A, Fee Worksheet**. Commissions proposed shall be firm for the duration of the contract. The financial proposal shall include any commissions the Contractor wishes to have considered in the contractual arrangement with the State.

**If submitting by hard copy (printed) the Financial Proposal should be packaged and sealed separately from the Technical Proposal and should be clearly marked as "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL".**

**If submitting online, the Financial Proposal should be a separate file from the Technical Proposal and should be clearly marked as "Financial Proposal".**

## **1.9 Number of Response Copies**

### **For online submission:**

Each Proposer shall submit one (1) signed, searchable original response in .pdf format. The signed, searchable original technical response should be provided as one (1) file and the financial response should be submitted as a separate file.

Each Proposer should submit the following:

- One (1) redacted copy of proposal in .pdf format, if applicable (See **Section 1.11** of this RFP). The redacted copy should be provided as one (1) file.

### **For hard copy submission:**

Each Proposer shall submit one (1) signed original response.

Each Proposer should submit the following:

- Five (5) additional copies of the proposal
- One (1) redacted copy of proposal, if applicable (See **Section 1.11** of this RFP)
- One (1) "searchable" electronic copy of proposal on two (2) separate USB flash drives. The searchable electronic copy should be provided as one (1) file.
- One (1) electronic redacted copy of proposal on a USB flash drive, if applicable (See **Section 1.11** of this RFP). The electronic redacted copy should be provided as one (1) file.

## **1.10 Legibility/Clarity**

Responses to the requirements of this RFP in the formats requested are desirable with all questions answered in as much detail as practicable. The Proposer's response is to demonstrate an understanding of the requirements. Proposals prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the Proposer's ability to meet the requirements of the RFP

is also desired. Each Proposer is solely responsible for the accuracy and completeness of its proposal.

### **1.11 Confidential Information, Trade Secrets, and Proprietary Information**

The designation of certain information as trade secrets and/or privileged or confidential proprietary information shall only apply to the technical portion of the proposal. **The financial proposal will not be considered confidential under any circumstance.** Any proposal copyrighted or marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse.

For the purposes of this procurement, the provisions of the Louisiana Public Records Act (La. R.S. 44.1 et. seq.) shall be in effect. Pursuant to this Act, all proceedings, records, contracts, and other public documents relating to this procurement shall be open to public inspection. Proposers are reminded that while trade secrets and other proprietary information they submit in conjunction with this procurement may not be subject to public disclosure, protections must be claimed by the Proposer at the time of submission of its Technical Proposal. Proposers should refer to the Louisiana Public Records Act for further clarification.

The Proposer shall clearly designate the part of the proposal that contains a trade secret and/or privileged or confidential proprietary information as “confidential” in order to claim protection, if any, from disclosure. The Proposer shall mark the cover sheet of the proposal with the following legend, specifying the specific section(s) of the proposal sought to be restricted in accordance with the conditions of the legend:

*“The data contained in pages \_\_\_\_\_ of the proposal have been submitted in confidence and contain trade secrets and/or privileged or confidential information and such data shall only be disclosed for evaluation purposes, provided that if a contract is awarded to this Proposer as a result of or in connection with the submission of this proposal, the State of Louisiana shall have the right to use or disclose the data therein to the extent provided in the contract. This restriction does not limit the State of Louisiana’s right to use or disclose data obtained from any source, including the Proposer, without restrictions.”*

Further, to protect such data, each page containing such data shall be specifically identified and marked “CONFIDENTIAL”.

If the Proposer’s response contains confidential information, the Proposer should also submit a redacted copy of their proposal along with their original proposal. When submitting the redacted copy, the Proposer should clearly mark the cover as such - “REDACTED COPY” - to avoid having this copy reviewed by an evaluation committee member. The redacted copy should also state which sections or information has been removed. The proposer should also submit one (1) electronic redacted copy of its proposal on a USB flash drive. The redacted copy of the proposal will be the copy produced by the State if a competing proposer or other person seeks review or copies of the Proposer’s confidential data.

**If the Proposer does not submit the redacted copy, it will be assumed that any claim to keep information confidential is waived.**

Proposers must be prepared to defend the reasons why the material should be held confidential. By submitting a proposal with data, information, or material designated as containing trade secrets and/or privileged or confidential proprietary information, or otherwise designated as “confidential”,

the Proposer agrees to indemnify and defend (including attorney's fees) the State and hold the State harmless against all actions or court proceedings that may ensue which seek to order the State to disclose the information.

The State reserves the right to make any proposal, including proprietary information contained therein, available to OSP personnel, the Office of the Governor, or other State Agencies or organizations for the sole purpose of assisting the State in its evaluation of the proposal. The State shall require said individuals to protect the confidentiality of any specifically identified proprietary information or privileged business information obtained as a result of their participation in these evaluations.

Additionally, any proposal that fails to follow this section and/or La. R.S. 44:3.2.(D)(1) shall have failed to properly assert the designation of trade secrets and/or privileged or confidential proprietary information and the information may be considered public records.

## **1.12 Proposal Clarifications Prior to Submittal**

### **1.12.1 Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit**

A **MANDATORY** pre-proposal conference and site visit will be held at Louisiana State Penitentiary, 17544 Tunica Trace, Hwy 66, Angola, LA 70712. Prospective Proposers are required to participate in the conference to obtain clarification of the requirements of the RFP and to receive answers to relevant questions. Any firm intending to submit a proposal shall have at least one (1) duly authorized representative attend the Pre-proposal Conference and site visit. Proposers that fail to attend and complete the mandatory pre-proposal conference and site visit and sign the sign-in sheets will be disqualified from the RFP process.

All Proposers shall be required to complete a sign-in sheet to verify attendance.

Attendees will be asked to follow the requirements of the Louisiana Covid- 19 Executive Order on the date of the Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit.

Although impromptu questions will be permitted and spontaneous answers will be provided during the conference, the only official answer or position of the State will be stated in writing in response to written questions via an addendum to this RFP.

### **1.12.2 Proposer Inquiry Periods**

The State shall not and cannot permit an open-ended inquiry period, as this creates an unwarranted delay in the procurement cycle and operations of our agency customers. The State reasonably expects and requires *responsible and interested* Proposers to conduct their in-depth proposal review and submit inquiries in a timely manner.

An inquiry period is hereby firmly set for all interested Proposers to perform a detailed review of the RFP documents and to submit any written inquiries relative thereto. *Without exception*, all inquiries **MUST** be submitted in writing by an authorized representative of the Proposer, clearly cross-referenced to the relevant solicitation section (even if an answer has already been given to an oral question during the Pre-proposal conference). All inquiries must be received by the Inquiry Deadline date set forth in **Section 1.6 Schedule of Events** of this RFP. Only those inquiries received by the established deadline shall be considered by the State. Inquiries received after the established deadline shall not be entertained.

Inquiries concerning this solicitation shall be delivered to the State's contact person for this RFP, Andrew Guzzardo, by mail, express courier, e-mail, hand, or fax:

Office of State Procurement  
Attention: Andrew Guzzardo  
P. O. Box 94095  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

1201 North Third St.  
Claiborne Bldg., Suite 2-160  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

E-Mail: [Andrew.Guzzardo@la.gov](mailto:Andrew.Guzzardo@la.gov)

Phone: (225) 342-8040/ Fax: (225) 342-9756

Only the person identified above or their designee has the authority to officially respond to Proposer's questions on behalf of the State, including during the Blackout Period. Any communications from any other individuals are not binding to the State.

An addendum will be issued and posted at the Office of State Procurement LaPAC website, to address all inquiries received and any other changes or clarifications to the solicitation. Thereafter, all RFP documents, including but not limited to the specifications, terms, conditions, plans, etc., will stand as written and/or amended by any addendum. No negotiations, decisions, or actions shall be executed by any Proposer as a result of any oral discussions with any State employee or State consultant. It is the Proposer's responsibility to check the LaPAC website frequently for any possible addenda that may be issued. The Office of State Procurement is not responsible for a Proposer's failure to download any addenda documents required to complete a Request for Proposal.

Any person aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or the specifications contained therein, has the right to protest in accordance with La. R.S. 39:1671. Such protest shall be made in writing to the Director of State Procurement at least two (2) days prior to the deadline for submitting proposals.

**Note:** LaPAC is the State's online electronic bid posting and notification system resident on the Office of State Procurement website [<http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/osp/Index.aspx>]. In that LaPAC provides an immediate e-mail notification to subscribing Bidders/Proposers that a solicitation and any subsequent addenda have been let and posted, notice and receipt thereof is considered formally given as of their respective dates of posting.

To receive the e-mail notification, Vendors/Proposers must register in the LaGov portal. Registration is intuitive at the following link:

[https://lagoverpvendor.doa.louisiana.gov/irj/portal/anonymous?guest\\_user=self\\_reg](https://lagoverpvendor.doa.louisiana.gov/irj/portal/anonymous?guest_user=self_reg)

Help scripts are available on OSP website under vendor center at:

<http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/osp/vendorcenter/regnhelp/index.aspx>

### **1.12.3 Blackout Period**

The Blackout Period is a specified period of time during a competitive sealed procurement process in which any Proposer, Bidder, or its Agent or Representative, is prohibited from communicating with any State employee or Contractor of the State involved in any step in the procurement process about the affected procurement. The Blackout Period applies not only to State employees, but also to any Contractor of the State. "Involvement" in the procurement process includes but may not be limited to project management, design, development,

implementation, procurement management, development of specifications, and evaluation of proposals for a particular procurement. All solicitations for competitive sealed procurements will identify a designated contact person, as per **Section 1.12.2** of this RFP. All communications to and from potential Proposers, Bidders, Vendors and/or their representatives during the Blackout Period must be in accordance with this solicitation's defined method of communication with the designated contact person. The Blackout Period will begin upon posting of the solicitation. The Blackout Period will end when the contract is awarded.

In those instances in which a prospective Proposer is also an incumbent Contractor, the State and the incumbent Contractor may contact each other with respect to the existing contract only. Under no circumstances may the State and the incumbent Contractor and/or its representative(s) discuss the blacked-out procurement.

Any Bidder, Proposer, or State Contractor who violates the Blackout Period may be liable to the State in damages and/or subject to any other remedy allowed by law. Further, failure to comply with these requirements may result in the Proposal's disqualification.

Any costs associated with cancellation or termination will be the responsibility of the Proposer or Bidder.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Blackout Period shall not apply to:

1. A protest to a solicitation submitted pursuant to La. R.S. 39:1671;
2. Duly noticed site visits and/or conferences for Bidders or Proposers;
3. Oral presentations during the evaluation process; or
4. Communications regarding a particular solicitation between any person and staff of the procuring agency provided the communication is limited strictly to matters of procedure. Procedural matters include deadlines for decisions or submission of proposals and the proper means of communicating regarding the procurement, but shall not include any substantive matter related to the particular procurement or requirements of the RFP.

### **1.13 Errors and Omissions in Proposal**

The State will not be liable for any errors or omissions in the proposal. Proposer will not be allowed to alter proposal documents after the deadline for proposal submission, except under the following condition: The State reserves the right to make corrections or clarifications due to patent errors identified in proposals by the State or the Proposer. The State, at its option, has the right to request clarification or additional information from the Proposer.

### **1.14 Proposal Guarantee**

NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS RFP.

### **1.15 Performance Bond**

The successful Proposer shall be required to provide a performance (surety) bond in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to insure the successful performance under the terms and conditions of the contract negotiated between the successful Proposer and the State. Any performance bond furnished shall be written by a surety or insurance company currently on the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Management Service list of approved bonding companies which is published annually in the *Federal Register*, or by a Louisiana domiciled

insurance company with at least an A-rating in the latest printing of the A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide to write individual bonds up to 10 percent of policyholders' surplus as shown in the A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide or by an insurance company that is either domiciled in Louisiana or owned by Louisiana residents and is licensed to write surety bonds.

No surety or insurance company shall write a performance bond which is in excess of the amount indicated as approved by the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Management Service list or by a Louisiana domiciled insurance company with an A-rating by A.M. Best up to a limit of 10 percent of policyholders' surplus as shown by A.M. Best; companies authorized by this Paragraph who are not on the treasury list shall not write a performance bond when the penalty exceeds 15 percent of its capital and surplus, such capital and surplus being the amount by which the company's assets exceed its liabilities as reflected by the most recent financial statements filed by the company with the Department of Insurance.

The performance bond is to be provided within ten (10) working days from request. Failure to provide within the time specified may cause your offer to be rejected.

In addition, any performance bond furnished shall be written by a surety or insurance company that is currently licensed to do business in the State of Louisiana.

#### **1.16 Fidelity Bond Requirements**

The Contractor shall be required to provide a Fidelity Bond in the amount of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to protect the State from loss resulting from acts of crime or fraud perpetrated either by the Contractor, its agents or subcontractors or against the Contractor, its agents or subcontractors. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Division of Prison Enterprises shall be the named beneficiary.

The fidelity bond furnished shall be written by a surety or insurance company that is currently licensed to do business in the State of Louisiana. This bond will be required prior to execution of the contract.

#### **1.17 Changes, Addenda, Withdrawals**

The State reserves the right to change the Schedule of Events or issue Addenda to the RFP at any time. The State also reserves the right to cancel or reissue the RFP.

If the Proposer needs to submit changes or addenda, such shall be submitted in writing, signed by an authorized representative of the Proposer, cross-referenced clearly to the relevant proposal section, prior to the proposal opening, and should be submitted in a sealed envelope. Such shall meet all requirements for the proposal.

#### **1.18 Withdrawal of Proposal**

A Proposer may withdraw a proposal that has been submitted at any time up to the proposal closing date and time. To accomplish this, a written request signed by the authorized representative of the Proposer must be submitted to the Office of State Procurement.



### **1.19 Material in the RFP**

Proposals shall be based only on the material contained in this RFP. The RFP includes official responses to questions, addenda, and other material, which may be provided by the State pursuant to the RFP.

### **1.20 Waiver of Administrative Informalities**

The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to waive administrative informalities contained in any proposal.

### **1.21 Proposal Rejection**

Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the State to award a contract. The State reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals submitted or to cancel this RFP if it is in the best interest of the State to do so. Further, the State reserves the right to cancel or decline to enter into a contract with the successful Proposer at any time after the award is made and before the contract receives final approval from the Division of Administration, Office of State Procurement.

In accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 39:2192, in awarding contracts after August 15, 2010, any public entity is authorized to reject a proposal or bid from, or not award the contract to, a business in which any individual with an ownership interest of five percent or more, has been convicted of, or has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any State felony or equivalent federal felony crime committed in the solicitation or execution of a contract or bid awarded under the laws governing public contracts under the provisions of Chapter 10 of Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, or the Louisiana Procurement Code under the provisions of Chapter 17 of Title 39.

In accordance with Louisiana law, all corporations (see La. R.S. 12:262.1) and limited liability companies (see La. R.S. 12:1308.2) must be registered and in good standing with the Louisiana Secretary of State in order to hold a purchase order and/or a contract with the State.

### **1.22 Ownership of Proposal**

All materials submitted in response to this request become the property of the State. Selection or rejection of a response does not affect this right. All proposals submitted will be retained by the State and not returned to Proposers. Any copyrighted materials in the response are not transferred to the State.

### **1.23 Cost of Offer Preparation**

The State is not liable for any costs incurred by prospective Proposers or Contractors prior to issuance of or entering into a Contract. Costs associated with developing the proposal, preparing for oral presentations, and any other expenses incurred by the Proposer in responding to the RFP are entirely the responsibility of the Proposer, and shall not be reimbursed in any manner by the State of Louisiana.

#### **1.24 Non-negotiable Contract Terms**

Non-negotiable contract terms include but are not limited to taxes, assignment of contract, audit of records, EEOC and ADA compliance, record retention, content of contract/order of precedence, contract changes, governing law, claims or controversies, and termination based on contingency of appropriation of funds.

#### **1.25 Taxes**

Any taxes, other than State and local sales and use taxes, from which the State is exempt, shall be assumed to be included within the Proposer's cost.

#### **1.26 Proposal Validity**

All proposals shall be considered valid for acceptance until such time an award is made, unless the Proposer provides for a different time period within its proposal response. However, the State reserves the right to reject a proposal if the Proposer's acceptance period is unacceptable and the Proposer is unwilling to extend the validity of its proposal.

#### **1.27 Prime Contractor Responsibilities**

The selected Proposer shall be required to assume responsibility for all items and services offered in their proposal whether or not they produce or provide them. The State shall consider the selected Proposer to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment of any and all charges resulting from the contract.

#### **1.28 Use of Subcontractors**

Each Contractor shall serve as the single prime Contractor for all work performed pursuant to its contract. That prime Contractor shall be responsible for all deliverables referenced in this RFP. This general requirement notwithstanding, Proposers may enter into subcontractor arrangements. Proposers may submit a proposal in response to this RFP, which identifies subcontract(s) with others, provided that the prime Contractor acknowledges total responsibility for the entire contract.

If it becomes necessary for the prime Contractor to use subcontractors, the State urges the prime Contractor to use Louisiana vendors, including small and emerging businesses, a small entrepreneurship or a veteran or service-connected disabled veteran-owned small entrepreneurship, if practical. In all events, any subcontractor used by the prime should be identified to the State Project Manager.

Information required of the prime Contractor under the terms of this RFP, is also required for each subcontractor and the subcontractors must agree to be bound by the terms of the contract. The prime Contractor shall assume total responsibility for compliance.

#### **1.29 Written or Oral Discussions/Presentations**

The State, at its sole discretion, may require all Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for the award to provide an oral presentation of how they propose to meet the agency's objectives; however, the State reserves the right to enter into an Agreement without further discussion of the proposal submitted based on the initial offers received.

Any commitments or representations made by the Proposer during these discussions, if conducted, may become formally recorded in the final contract.

Written or oral discussions/presentations for clarification may be conducted to enhance the State's understanding of any or all of the proposals submitted. Proposals may be accepted without such discussions.

### **1.30 Acceptance of Proposal Content**

The mandatory RFP requirements shall become contractual obligations if a contract ensues. Failure of the successful Proposer to accept these obligations shall result in the rejection of the proposal.

### **1.31 Independent Price Determination**

By submitting a proposal, the Proposer certifies that the price submitted was independently arrived at without collusion.

### **1.32 Evaluation and Selection**

All responses received as a result of this RFP are subject to evaluation by the State Evaluation Committee for the purpose of selecting the Proposer most advantageous to the State with whom the State shall contract.

To evaluate all proposals, a committee whose members have expertise in various areas has been selected by the State. A consensus-based evaluation process shall be used to evaluate responses. This committee will determine which proposals are reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. If required, written or oral discussions may be conducted with any or all of the Proposers to make this determination.

The State Evaluation Committee may consult Subject Matter Expert(s) (SMEs) to serve in an advisory capacity regarding any Proposer or Proposal. Such input may include, but not limited to, analysis of Proposer financial statements, review of technical requirements, or preparation of cost score data.

Written recommendation for award shall be made to the Director of State Procurement for the responsible Proposer whose proposal, conforming to the RFP, will be the most advantageous to the State of Louisiana, price and other factors considered.

The committee may reject any or all proposals if it is considered in the best interest of the State.

### **1.33 Best and Final Offers (BAFO)**

The State reserves the right to conduct a BAFO with one or more Proposers determined by the committee to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. If conducted, the Proposers selected to participate will receive written notification of their selection, with a list of specific items to be addressed in the BAFO along with instructions for submittal. The BAFO negotiation may be used to assist the State in clarifying the scope of work or to obtain the most cost effective pricing available from the Proposers.

**The written invitation will not obligate the State to a commitment to enter into a contract.**

### **1.34 Contract Negotiations**

If for any reason, after final evaluation and issuance of the Intent to Award letter, the responsible Proposer whose proposal is most advantageous to the State's needs, price and other evaluation factors set forth in the RFP considered, does not agree to a contract, that proposal shall be rejected and the State may negotiate with the next most advantageous responsible Proposer.

Negotiation may include revision of any non-mandatory terms or conditions, and clarification of the scope of work and/or implementation of the most cost effective pricing available from the Proposers. OSP must approve the final contract form and issue a purchase order, if applicable, to complete the process.

### **1.35 Contract Award and Execution**

The State reserves the right to enter into a contract without further discussion of the proposal submitted based on the initial offers received.

The RFP, including any addenda, and the proposal of the selected Contractor will become part of any contract initiated by the State.

Proposers are discouraged from submitting their own standard terms and conditions with their proposals. Proposers should address the specific language in the sample generic contract in **Attachment B – Sample Contract** of this RFP and submit any exceptions or deviations the Proposer wishes to negotiate. The proposed terms will be negotiated before a final contract is executed. The State's mandatory terms and conditions including but not limited to those contained in **Section 1.24** of this RFP are not negotiable. If applicable, a Proposer may submit or refer to a Master Agreement entered into by the Contractor and the Office of State Procurement in accordance with La. R.S. 39:198(J).

If the contract negotiation period exceeds thirty (30) days or if the selected Proposer fails to sign the contract within **seven (7) calendar** days of delivery of it, the State may elect to cancel the award and award the contract to the next most advantageous responsible Proposer.

Award shall be made to the Proposer with the highest score, whose proposal, conforming to the RFP, will be the most advantageous to the State of Louisiana, price and other factors considered.

The State intends to award to a single Proposer.

### **1.36 Notice of Intent to Award**

Upon review and approval of the evaluation committee's and agency's recommendation for award, OSP will issue a "Notice of Intent to Award" letter to the apparent successful Proposer. The "Notice of Intent to Award" letter is the notification of the award of the contract. However, the "Notice of Intent to Award" is contingent upon successful negotiation of a final contract and approval by the Division of Administration, Office of State Procurement. A contract shall be completed and signed by all parties concerned on or before the date indicated in the "Schedule of Events." If this date is not met, through no fault of the State, the State may elect to cancel the

"Notice of Intent to Award" letter and make the award to the next most advantageous responsible Proposer.

OSP will also notify all unsuccessful Proposers as to the outcome of the evaluation process. The proposals received (except for that information appropriately designated as confidential in accordance with La. R.S. 44.1 et. seq.) along with the evaluation factors, points, evaluation committee member names, and the completed evaluation summary and recommendation report are public record and shall be made available, upon request, to all interested parties after the "Notice of Intent to Award" letter has been issued.

Any person aggrieved by the proposed award has the right to submit a protest in writing, in accordance with La. R.S. 39:1671, to the Director of State Procurement, within fourteen (14) days of the award/intent to award. The "Notice of Intent to Award" letter starts the protest period.

### **1.37 Debriefings**

Debriefings may be scheduled by the participating Proposers after the "Notice of Intent to Award" letter has been issued by scheduling an appointment with the Office of State Procurement. Contact may be made by phone at (225) 342-8040 or E-mail to [Andrew.Guzzardo@la.gov](mailto:Andrew.Guzzardo@la.gov)

### **1.38 Insurance Requirements**

Contractor shall furnish the State with certificates of insurance effecting coverage(s) required by this RFP in accordance with **Attachment C – Insurance Requirements for Contractors**. The certificates for each insurance policy are to be signed by a person authorized by that insurer to bind coverage on its behalf. The certificates are to be received and approved by the State before work commences. The State reserves the right to require complete certified copies of all required policies, at any time. The Contractor shall maintain the insurance as shown in **Attachment C – Insurance Requirements for Contractors** for the full term of the contract. Failure to comply shall be grounds for termination of the contract.

### **1.39 Subcontractor Insurance**

The Contractor shall include all subcontractors as insured's under its policies or shall insure that all subcontractors satisfy the same insurance requirements stated herein for the Contractor.

### **1.40 Indemnification and Limitation of Liability**

Neither party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance beyond its control resulting from acts of God or force majeure. The parties shall use reasonable efforts to eliminate or minimize the effect of such events upon performance of their respective duties under the contract.

Contractor shall be fully liable for the actions of its agents, employees, partners or subcontractors and shall fully indemnify and hold harmless the State from suits, actions, damages and costs of every name and description relating to personal injury and damage to property caused by Contractor, its agents, employees, partners or subcontractors in the performance of the contract, without limitation; provided, however, that the Contractor shall not indemnify for that portion of any claim, loss or damage arising hereunder due to the negligent act or failure to act of the State.

Contractor will indemnify, defend and hold the State harmless, **without limitation**, from and against any and all damages, expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), claims judgments,

liabilities and costs which may be finally assessed against the State in any action for infringement of a United States Letter Patent with respect to the Products, Materials, or Services furnished, or of any copyright, trademark, trade secret or intellectual property right, provided that the State shall give the Contractor: (i) prompt written notice of any action, claim or threat of infringement suit, or other suit, (ii) the opportunity to take over, settle or defend such action, claim or suit at Contractor's sole expense, and (iii) assistance in the defense of any such action at the expense of the Contractor. Where a dispute or claim arises relative to a real or anticipated infringement, the State may require Contractor, at its sole expense, to submit such information and documentation, including formal patent attorney opinions, as the Commissioner of Administration shall require.

The Contractor shall not be obligated to indemnify that portion of a claim or dispute based upon: (i) State's unauthorized modification or alteration of a Product, Material, or Service; (ii) State's use of the Product, Material, or Service in combination with other products, materials, or services not furnished by Contractor; (iii) State's use in other than the specified operating conditions and environment.

In addition to the foregoing, if the use of any item(s) or part(s) thereof shall be enjoined for any reason or if Contractor believes that it may be enjoined, Contractor shall have the right, at its own expense and sole discretion as the state's exclusive remedy to take action no later than six (6) months after the issuance of an injunction in the following order of precedence: (i) to procure for the State the right to continue using such item(s) or part(s) thereof, as applicable; (ii) to modify the component so that it becomes non-infringing equipment of at least equal quality and performance; or (iii) to replace said item(s) or part(s) thereof, as applicable, with non-infringing components of at least equal quality and performance, or (iv) if none of the foregoing is commercially reasonable, then provide monetary compensation to the State up to the dollar amount of the Contract. Any injunction that is issued against the State which prevents the State from utilizing the Contractor's product in excess of six (6) months and for which the Contractor has not obtained for the State or provided to the State one of the alternatives set forth in the foregoing sentence is cause for the State to terminate the Contract. In the event of such termination, the State will not be obligated to compensate the Contractor for any costs incurred by the Contractor.

For all other claims against the Contractor where liability is not otherwise set forth in the contract as being "without limitation", and regardless of the basis on which the claim is made, Contractor's liability **for direct damages, shall be the greater of \$100,000, the dollar amount of the Contract, or two (2) times the charges for products, materials, or services rendered by the Contractor under the Contract.** Unless otherwise specifically enumerated herein mutually agreed between the parties, neither party shall be liable to the other for special, indirect or consequential damages, including lost data or records (unless the Contractor is required to back-up the data or records as part of the work plan), even if the party has been advised of the possibility of such damages. Neither party shall be liable for lost profits, lost revenue or lost institutional operating savings.

The State may, in addition to other remedies available to them at law or equity and upon notice to the Contractor, retain such monies from amounts due Contractor, or may proceed against the performance and payment bond, if any, as may be necessary to satisfy any claim for damages, penalties, costs and the like asserted by or against them.

## **1.41 Payment**

### **1.41.1 Payment for Services**

The resulting contract shall be a no cost contract to the State of Louisiana. Fees for services will be charged by the Contractor to end users, who are made up of incarcerated offenders, family members, and friends.

The Contractor shall remit commission quarterly to DPS&C in accordance with **Attachment A: Fee Worksheet** of this RFP.

### **1.41.2 Late Payments**

NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS RFP.

## **1.42 Termination**

The State of Louisiana has the right to terminate the contract immediately for any of the following reasons: (a) misrepresentation by the Contractor; (b) Contractor's fraud, collusion, conspiracy or other unlawful means of obtaining any contract with the State of Louisiana; (c) conflict of contract provisions with constitutional or statutory provisions of State or Federal Law; (d) abusive or belligerent conduct by the Contractor towards an employee or agent of the State; (e) Contractor's intentional violation of the Louisiana Procurement Code (La. R.S. 39:1551 et seq.) and its corresponding regulations; or, (f) any listed reason for debarment under La. R.S. 39:1672.

### **1.42.1 Termination of the Contract for Cause**

The State may terminate the contract for cause based upon the failure of the Contractor to comply with the terms and/or conditions of the contract, or failure to fulfill its performance obligations pursuant to the contract, provided that the State shall give the Contractor written notice specifying the Contractor's failure. If within thirty (30) days after receipt of such notice, the Contractor shall not have corrected such failure or, in the case of failure which cannot be corrected in thirty (30) days, begun in good faith to correct such failure and thereafter proceeded diligently to complete such correction, then the State may, at its option, place the Contractor in default and the contract shall terminate on the date specified in such notice.

The Contractor may exercise any rights available to it under Louisiana law to terminate for cause upon the failure of the State to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract, provided that the Contractor shall give the State written notice specifying the State's failure and a reasonable opportunity for the State to cure the defect.

### **1.42.2 Termination of the Contract for Convenience**

The State of Louisiana may terminate the contract for convenience at any time (1) by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the Contractor of such termination; or (2) by negotiating with the Contractor an effective date. The State shall pay the Contractor for, if applicable: (a) deliverables in progress; (b) the percentage that has been completed satisfactorily; and, (c) for transaction-based services up to the date of termination, to the extent work has been performed satisfactorily.

### **1.42.3 Termination for Non-Appropriation of Funds**

The continuance of the contract is contingent upon the appropriation of funds to fulfill the requirements of the contract by the legislature. If the legislature fails to appropriate sufficient monies to provide for the continuation of the contract, or if such appropriation is reduced by the veto of the Governor or by any means provided in the appropriations act or Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 to prevent the total appropriation for the year from exceeding revenues for that year, or for any other lawful purpose, and the effect of such reduction is to provide insufficient monies for the continuation of the contract, the contract shall terminate on the date of the beginning of the first fiscal year for which funds are not appropriated.

### **1.43 Assignment**

The Contractor shall not assign any interest in the contract by assignment, transfer, or novation, without prior written consent of the State. This provision shall not be construed to prohibit the Contractor from assigning his bank, trust company, or other financial institution any money due or to become due from approved contracts without such prior written consent. Notice of any such assignment or transfer shall be furnished promptly to the State.

### **1.44 No Guarantee of Quantities**

The quantities referenced in the RFP are estimated to be the amount needed. In the event a greater or lesser quantity is needed, the right is reserved by the State of Louisiana to increase or decrease the amount, at the unit price stated in the proposal.

Neither the State nor Agency obligates itself to contract for or accept more than their actual requirements during the period of the contract, as determined by actual needs and availability of appropriated funds.

### **1.45 Audit of Records**

The State legislative auditor, federal auditors and internal auditors of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Division of Administration, or others so designated by the DOA, shall have the option to audit all accounts directly pertaining to the resulting contract for a period of five (5) years from the date of final payment or as required by applicable State and Federal law. Records shall be made available during normal working hours for this purpose.

### **1.46 Civil Rights Compliance**

The Contractor agrees to abide by the requirements of the following as applicable: Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, Federal Executive Order 11246 as amended, the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, the Vietnam Era Veteran's Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended, and Contractor agrees to abide by the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Contractor agrees not to discriminate in its employment practices, and will render services under the contract without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, veteran status, political affiliation, disability, or age in any matter relating to employment. Any act of



discrimination committed by Contractor, or failure to comply with these statutory obligations when applicable shall be grounds for termination of the contract.

#### **1.47 Record Retention**

The Contractor shall maintain all records in relation to the contract for a period of at least five (5) years after final payment.

#### **1.48 Record Ownership**

All records, reports, documents, or other material related to any contract resulting from this RFP and/or obtained or prepared by Contractor in connection with the performance of the services contracted for herein shall become the property of the State and shall, upon request, be returned by Contractor to the State, at Contractor's expense, at termination or expiration of the contract.

#### **1.49 Content of Contract/ Order of Precedence**

In the event of an inconsistency between the contract, the RFP and/or the Contractor's Proposal, the inconsistency shall be resolved by giving precedence first to the final contract, then to the RFP and subsequent addenda (if any) and finally, the Contractor's Proposal.

#### **1.50 Contract Changes**

No additional changes, enhancements, or modifications to any contract resulting from this RFP shall be made without the prior written approval of OSP.

Changes to the contract include any change in: compensation; beginning/ ending date of the contract; scope of work; and/or Contractor change through the Assignment of Contract process. Any such changes, once approved, will result in the issuance of an amendment to the contract.

#### **1.51 Substitution of Personnel**

The State intends to include in any contract resulting from this RFP the following condition:

Substitution of Personnel: If, during the term of the contract, the Contractor or subcontractor cannot provide the personnel as proposed and requests a substitution, that substitution shall meet or exceed the requirements stated herein. A detailed resume of qualifications and justification is to be submitted to the State for approval prior to any personnel substitution. It shall be acknowledged by the Contractor that every reasonable attempt shall be made to assign the personnel listed in the Contractor's proposal.

The State shall reserve the right to require removal and replacement of any contract personnel whose performance it considers unacceptable.

#### **1.52 Governing Law**

All activities associated with this RFP process shall be interpreted under Louisiana Law, including but not limited to La. R.S. 39:1551-1736 (Louisiana Procurement Code) and La. R.S. 39:196-200 (Information Technology Procurement Code), if applicable; purchasing rules and regulations; executive orders; standard terms and conditions; special terms and conditions; and specifications listed in this RFP. Venue of any action brought with regard to all activities associated with this

RFP process shall be in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana.

### **1.53 Claims or Controversies**

Any claims or controversies shall be resolved in accordance with the Louisiana Procurement Code, La. R.S. 39:1671-1673.

### **1.54 Proposer's Certification of No Federal Suspension or Debarment**

By signing and submitting any proposal for \$25,000 or more, the Proposer certifies that their company, any subcontractors, or principals are not suspended or debarred by the General Services Administration (GSA) in accordance with the requirements in "Audit Requirements in Subpart F of the Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" (formerly OMB Circular A-133).

A list of parties who have been suspended or debarred can be viewed via the internet at <https://www.sam.gov>.

#### **1.54.1 Proposer's Eligibility**

A statement of the Proposer's involvement in litigation and any suspension or debarment proceedings which could affect this work shall also be included in the Proposal. A suspension or debarment proceeding which could affect this work is any proceeding, whether pending or concluded, that involves a governmental body or governmental entity. If no such litigation, suspension or debarment exists, proposer shall so state.

#### **1.54.2 Continuing Obligation**

Contractor has a continuing obligation to disclose any suspensions or debarment by any government entity, including but not limited to General Services Administration (GSA). Failure to disclose may constitute grounds for suspension and/or termination of the Contract and debarment from future contracts.

### **1.55 Anti-Kickback Clause**

The Contractor hereby agrees to adhere to the mandate dictated by the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act which provides that each Contractor or subgrantee shall be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the completion of work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he is otherwise entitled.

### **1.56 Clean Air Act**

The Contractor hereby agrees to adhere to the provisions which require compliance with all applicable standards, orders or requirements issued under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act which prohibits the use under non-exempt federal contracts, grants or loans of facilities included on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) list of Violating Facilities.

### **1.57 Energy Policy and Conservation Act**

The Contractor hereby recognizes the mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency which are contained in the State energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (P.L. 94-163).

### **1.58 Clean Water Act**

The Contractor hereby agrees to adhere to the provisions which require compliance with all applicable standards, orders, or requirements issued under Section 508 of the Clean Water Act which prohibits the use under non-exempt federal contracts, grants or loans of facilities included on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) List of Violating Facilities.

### **1.59 Anti-Lobbying and Debarment Act**

The Contractor will be expected to comply with federal statutes required in the Anti-Lobbying Act and the Debarment Act.

### **1.60 Warranties**

Contractor warrants that all services shall be performed in good faith, with diligence and care, by experienced and qualified personnel in a professional, workmanlike manner, and according to its current description (including any completion criteria) contained in the scope of work.

Contractor further warrants that it has the right to provide and or license its product to the State and that it will operate in accordance with this solicitation. In the event of a material failure of Contractor's product to function and operate, and/or failure by the Contractor to perform its obligations, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract that results in the termination of the contract for cause by the State, the State will not be obligated to compensate the Contractor of any costs incurred by Contractor.

### **1.61 Code of Ethics**

The Contractor acknowledges that Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes (La. R.S. 42:1101 et. seq., Code of Governmental Ethics) applies to the Contracting Party in the performance of services called for in the Contract. The Contractor agrees to immediately notify the State if potential violations of the Code of Governmental Ethics arise at any time during the term of the Contract.

### **1.62 Proposer's Cooperation**

Any Proposer has the duty to fully cooperate with the State and provide any and all requested information, documentation, etc. to the State when requested. This applies even if an eventual contract is terminated and/or a lawsuit is filed. Specifically, the Proposer shall not limit or impede the State's right to audit or to withhold State owned documents.

### **1.63 Security**

Contractor's personnel shall comply with all security regulations in effect at the State's premises, the Information Security Policy at <http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ots/InformationSecurity.aspx> and externally for materials and property belonging to the State or to the project. Where special

security precautions are warranted (e.g., correctional facilities), the State shall provide such procedures to the Contractor, accordingly. Contractor is responsible for promptly reporting to the State any known breach of security.

#### **1.63.1 Cybersecurity Training**

A. In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1267(B)(3) and the State of Louisiana's Information Security Policy, if the Contractor, any of its employees, agents, or subcontractors will have access to State government information technology assets, the Contractor's employees, agents, or subcontractors with such access must complete cybersecurity training annually, and the Contractor must present evidence of such compliance annually and upon request. The Contractor may use the cybersecurity training course offered by the Louisiana Department of State Civil Service without additional cost or may use any alternate course approved in writing by the Office of Technology Services.

B. For purposes of this Section, "access to State government information technology assets" means the possession of credentials, equipment, or authorization to access the internal workings of State information technology systems or networks. Examples would include but not be limited to State-issued laptops, VPN credentials to credentials to access the State network, badging to access the State's telecommunications closets or systems, or permissions to maintain or modify IT systems used by the State. Final determination of scope inclusions or exclusions relative to access to State government information technology assets will be made by the Office of Technology Services.

#### **1.64 Prohibition of Discriminatory Boycotts of Israel**

In accordance with La. R.S. 39:1602.1, the following applies to any Proposal with a value of \$100,000 or more and to Proposers with five (5) or more employees:

By submitting a response to this solicitation, the Proposer certifies and agrees that the following information is correct: In preparing its response, the Proposer has considered all proposals submitted from qualified, potential subcontractors and suppliers, and has not, in the solicitation, selection, or commercial treatment of any subcontractor or supplier, refused to transact or terminated business activities, or taken other actions intended to limit commercial relations, with a person or entity that is engaging in commercial transactions in Israel or Israeli-controlled territories, with the specific intent to accomplish a boycott or divestment of Israel. The Proposer has also not retaliated against any person or other entity for reporting such refusal, termination, or commercially limiting actions. The State reserves the right to reject the response of the Proposer if this certification is subsequently determined to be false, and to terminate any contract awarded based on such a false response.

#### **1.65 Key Internal Control Outsourcing**

NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS RFP.

## **PART II: SCOPE OF WORK/SERVICES**

### **2.1 Scope of Work/Services**

The Contractor shall cooperate in designing, implementing, and operating a customized offender Canteen Package Program where eligible offenders and offenders' family and friends may order packages of pre-approved products for delivery to where the offenders are housed within the DPS&C facilities. The Contractor shall provide full logistics, operations, product and service support for the "Food and Hygiene" package program and the "Personal Property and Clothing" package program.

Eligible offenders may receive a "Food and Hygiene" package and/or a "Personal Property and Clothing" package. When an offender is scheduled to receive both a "Personal Property and Clothing" package and a "Food and Hygiene" package, the different types of packages are to be bagged separately but packaged and shipped together. "Personal Property and Clothing" packages will have a quantity limit to be determined by DPS&C and the "Food and Hygiene" packages will have a dollar limit to be determined by DPS&C. Shipping and handling will be charged by the Contractor and paid for separately by the offender or the offender's family and friends. The Contractor must have the ability to track and combine multiple orders for a single offender without exceeding the established dollar or quantity limits for the different types of packages.

The Contractor shall be responsible for the following, including but not limited to: creating and distributing marketing materials including catalogs; receiving orders from offenders, their friends and family members via mail, phone or internet; billing the ordering customer as applicable, and processing and collecting payments; purchasing and shipping inventory to a single location in Louisiana; providing and maintaining technology and equipment for the packaging operations (i.e. shelving, conveyor systems, electronics, etc.); and providing start-up and ongoing consultation and training to PE staff and offenders.

PE shall be responsible for inventory management, order fulfillment operations and the coordination of the transportation and distribution of packages to offenders in all DPS&C facilities located throughout the State of Louisiana.

PE will also provide the package program building structure which will be located at Louisiana State Penitentiary.

### **2.2 Deliverables**

The deliverables listed in this section are the minimum desired from the successful Proposer. Every Proposer should describe what deliverables will be provided per their proposal and how the proposed deliverables will be provided.

- A. Contractor will provide a summary description of the operations and the division of responsibilities between the Contractor and PE.
- B. Provide a warehouse operational design plan that details the space requirements, design process, climate control and work flow strategy of a warehouse that will house the inventory storage and production area. Provide an example of a current design for a

packaging program production area now in operation and in which the Contractor actively participates.

- C. Provide a project implementation plan for each Phase that includes a clear definition of the tasks to be undertaken by, respectively, the Contractor and PE to implement the program. The plan should include the techniques for executing each task and the sequencing of the tasks.
- D. Provide an offender staffing plan that will ensure timely and satisfactory completion of each package program. The offender staffing plan should include how many offenders are required for the program and how many hours the program needs to be staffed.
- E. Provide a plan to determine the food, hygiene, and personal property items to be offered and approved by DPS&C.
- F. Provide a marketing plan, including a description of all marketing materials that the Contractor will create or provide for each package program and how often.

## **2.3 Fee Worksheet**

Commissions proposed by the Proposers shall be submitted on the Fee Worksheet furnished herein on **Attachment A**. In addition, Contractor will be responsible for reimbursing PE for operational expenses, including but not limited to: salary of warehouse supervisor, utilities (water, gas, electricity, and telephones), etc.

## **2.4 Location**

The location(s) the work/delivery/service is to be performed, completed and managed is at Louisiana State Penitentiary.

## **2.5 Proposal Elements**

### **2.5.1 Financial**

Proposer's Commissions of Gross Sales shall be submitted in accordance with **Attachment A – Fee Worksheet**. Commissions proposed shall be firm for the duration of the contract. The financial proposal shall include any commissions the Contractor wishes to have considered in the contractual arrangement with the State.

### **2.5.2 Technical**

Each Proposer should address how the firm will meet all the requirements of this RFP, with particular attention to:

#### **A. Proposer's Qualifications**

- Resumes for account manager, designated customer service representative(s) and any other key personnel to be assigned to this project, including those of subcontractors, if any.
- References for at least three (3) States, Government Agencies, or Private Firms for whom similar or larger scope services are currently being provided. Include a contact person, email address, and telephone number for each reference.
- Information demonstrating the Proposer's financial stability (financial statements, annual reports, or similar data for the last three (3) years).

## B. Approach and Methodology

- Information demonstrating the Proposer's understanding of the nature and scope of this project.
- Describe and provide the reports and notifications that will be provided as well as the schedule on which each would be provided. List any recommended customized reports.
- Provide a detailed logistics plan, including laying out the time frames for bulk inventory shipments to the PE package facility, inventory handling and storage procedures, and a loss prevention plan.
- Provide information as to the types of payments that will be accepted and how payments will be processed.
- Describe how Proposer will structure catalog design and printing. Provide one (1) sample to be included in Proposer's response of previous catalogs used in other package programs. Catalogs previously used in other Correctional Industries Packaging Programs are highly preferred.
- Provide a plan to determine the food, hygiene, and personal property items to be offered and approved by DPS&C. Proposer is to provide a sample market basket to be included in Proposer's response listing a sampling of twenty (20) items including a description and cost to determine a fair market value.
- Provide an offender staffing plan that will ensure timely and satisfactory completion of each package program. The offender staffing plan should include how many offenders are required for the program and how many hours the program needs to be staffed.
- Provide a summary description of the proposed operations and the division of responsibilities between the Proposer and PE.
- Provide a warehouse operational design plan that details the space requirements, design process, climate control and work flow strategy of a warehouse that will house the inventory storage and production area. Provide an example of a current design for a packaging program production area now in operation and in which the Proposer actively participates.
- Provide a marketing plan, including a description of all marketing materials that the Proposer will create or provide, for each package program and how often.
- Describe how Proposer will determine, and provide a plan for, the PE Package Program ordering periods and delivery schedules to DPS&C facilities for each program. Provide a sample ordering period/delivery schedule used in prior package programs. Schedules used in other Correctional Industries Package Programs are highly preferred. This should be included in Proposer's response.
- Describe the computer hardware and software that the Proposer will provide and the software's use and capabilities in managing the package program operations.
- Provide a list of the equipment and materials that will be provided by the Proposer to facilitate the proposed Canteen Package Program.
- Describe the backup and redundancy of Proposer computer systems to ensure integrity of customer and client data.
- Describe how refunds, returns, credits and complaints will be handled.
- Describe any innovative concepts that the Proposer intends to employ.

### C. Service and Support Requirements

- Describe the payment process for commissions associated with Proposer's proposal and an estimated revenue based on the sales volume projections gained from previous experience.
- Describe how refunds, returns, credits and complaints will be handled.
- Describe the training and consultation that will be provided to PE throughout the term of the Contract.
- Describe the provision for customer service, including personnel assigned, toll-free number, and account inquiry, etc. Provide detailed information regarding the Proposer's customer service operations, including how the offender, friends, and family ordering processes will be managed, including time frames, ordering methods and program cutoff dates. Provide a sample order form to be included in the Proposer's response used in other package programs. An order form previously used in another Correctional Industries Packaging Program is highly preferred.

### D. Implementation/Orientation Plan

- Plans and/or schedule for implementation, orientation, and installation.
- Provide a project implementation plan for each Phase that includes a clear definition of the tasks to be undertaken by, respectively, the Proposer and PE to implement the program. The plan should include the techniques proposed for executing each task and the sequencing of the tasks.

Any other information deemed pertinent by the Proposer including terms and conditions which the Proposer wishes the State to consider.

### **2.5.3 Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Entrepreneurships (Veteran Initiative) and Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (Hudson Initiative) Programs Participation**

Each Proposer should address how the firm will meet the following:

The State of Louisiana Veteran and Hudson Initiatives are designed to provide additional opportunities for Louisiana-based small entrepreneurships (sometimes referred to as LaVet's and SE's respectively) to participate in contracting and procurement with the State. A certified Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned small entrepreneurship (LaVet) and a Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (Hudson Initiative) small entrepreneurship are businesses that have been certified by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development. All eligible vendors are encouraged to become certified. Qualification requirements and online certification are available at:

<https://smallbiz.louisianaeconomicdevelopment.com>

If a Proposer is not a certified small entrepreneurship as described herein, but plans to use certified small entrepreneurship(s), Proposer shall include in their proposal the names of their certified Veteran Initiative or Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship subcontractor(s), a description of the work each will perform, and the dollar or percentage value of each subcontract.



During the term of the contract and at expiration, the Contractor will also be required to report Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship subcontractor or distributor participation and the dollar amount of each.

In RFP's requiring the compliance of a good faith subcontracting plan, the State may require Proposers to submit information on their business relationships and arrangements with certified LaVet or Hudson Initiative subcontractors at the time of proposal review. Agreements between a Proposer and a certified LaVet or Hudson Initiative subcontractor in which the certified LaVet or Hudson Initiative subcontractor promises not to provide subcontracting quotations to other Proposers shall be prohibited.

In performing its evaluation of proposals, the State reserves the right to require a non-certified Proposer to provide documentation and information supporting a good faith subcontracting plan. Such proof may include contracts between proposer and certified Veteran Initiative and/or Hudson Initiative subcontractor(s).

If a contract is awarded to a Proposer who proposed a good faith subcontracting plan, the using agency, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED), or the Office of State Procurement (OSP) may audit Contractor to determine whether Contractor has complied in good faith with its subcontracting plan. The Contractor must be able to provide supporting documentation (i.e., phone logs, fax transmittals, letter, e-mails) to demonstrate its good faith subcontracting plan was followed. If it is determined at any time by the using agency, LED, or the OSP Director that the Contractor did not in fact perform in good faith its subcontracting plan, the contract award or the existing contract may be terminated.

The statutes (La. R.S. 39:2171 *et. seq.*) concerning the Veteran Initiative may be viewed at:  
<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=671504>

The statutes (La. R.S. 39:2001 *et. seq.*) concerning the Hudson Initiative may be viewed at:  
<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=96265>

The rules for the Veteran Initiative (LAC 19:VII. Chapters 11 and 15) and for the Hudson Initiative (LAC 19:VIII Chapters 11 and 13) may be viewed at:  
<http://www.doa.la.gov/pages/osp/se/secv.aspx>

A current list of certified Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship may be obtained from the Louisiana Economic Development Certification System at:  
<https://smallbiz.louisianaeconomicdevelopment.com>

Additionally, a list of Hudson and Veteran Initiative small entrepreneurship, which have been certified by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and who have opted to register in the State of Louisiana LaGov Supplier Portal:  
[https://lagoverpvendor.doa.louisiana.gov/iri/portal/anonymous?quest\\_user=self\\_reg](https://lagoverpvendor.doa.louisiana.gov/iri/portal/anonymous?quest_user=self_reg)

This may be accessed from the State of Louisiana Procurement and Contract (LaPAC) Network:  
<https://wwwcfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/OSP/LaPAC/vendor/VndPubMain.cfm>

When using this site, determine the search criteria (i.e. alphabetized list of all certified vendors, by commodities, etc.) and select SmallE, VSE, or DVSE.

## **PART III: EVALUATION**

The evaluation committee shall assign points to its evaluation of each Proposal as follows:

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Technical Proposal ( <b>Section 3.1</b> )	53
Financial Proposal ( <b>Section 3.2</b> )	35
Veteran and Hudson Initiative ( <b>Section 3.3</b> )	12
Total Possible Points	100

The proposal will be evaluated in light of the material and the substantiating evidence presented to the State, not on the basis of what may be inferred.

**For a Proposer to proceed to the Financial Proposal and Veteran and Hudson Initiative evaluation, the Proposer shall achieve a minimum score equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of the possible points assigned to the Technical Proposal. Any Proposal failing to receive the minimum score at the completion of the detailed evaluation of the technical proposals will not be evaluated further and will be ineligible for award.**

The scores for the Financial Proposals, Technical Proposals and Veteran and Hudson Initiative will be combined to determine the overall score. The Proposer with the highest overall score will be recommended for award.

### **3.1 Technical Proposal**

The following criteria are of importance and relevance to the evaluation of this RFP and will be used by the State Evaluation Committee in the evaluation of the technical proposal. Such factors include:

- **Approach and Methodology = 20 points**
- **Implementation/Orientation Plan = 20 points**
- **Proposer's Qualifications = 10 points**
- **Service and Support Requirements = 3 points**

### **3.2 Financial Proposal**

**The Financial Proposal should be packaged and sealed separately from the Technical Proposal and should be clearly marked as "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL".**

The following financial criteria will be evaluated:

Proposer's Commissions of Gross Sales shall be submitted in accordance with **Attachment A: - Fee Worksheet** of this RFP. Commissions proposed shall be firm for the duration of the contract.

The information provided in response to this section will be used in the Financial Evaluation to calculate highest evaluated commission.

A Proposer's base commission score will be based on the information provided in **Attachment A** and computed as follows:

$$\text{BCS} = (\text{PC}/\text{HCA}) \times \text{FPP}$$

Where: BCS = Computed commission score (points) for Proposer being evaluated

PC = Commission amount of Proposer being evaluated

HCA = Highest commission amount

FPP = Financial Proposal Points

### **3.3 Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Entrepreneurships (Veteran Initiative) and Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (Hudson Initiative) Programs Participation**

Twelve percent (12%) of the total evaluation points in this RFP are reserved for Proposers who are certified small entrepreneurship or who will engage the participation of one or more certified small entrepreneurship as subcontractors. Reserved points shall be added to the applicable Proposers' evaluation score as follows:

#### Proposer Status and Allotment of Reserved Points

- i. If the Proposer is a certified Veterans Initiative small entrepreneurship, the Proposer shall receive points equal to twelve percent (12%) of the total evaluation points in this RFP.
- ii. If the Proposer is a certified Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship, the Proposer shall receive points equal to ten percent (10%) of the total evaluation points in this RFP.
- iii. If the Proposer demonstrates its intent to use certified small entrepreneurship(s) in the performance of contract work resulting from this solicitation, the Proposer shall receive points equal to the net percentage extent of contract work which is projected to be performed by or through certified small entrepreneurship subcontractors, multiplied by the appropriate number of evaluation points.
  - a. Proposers should provide the percentage value of each proposed subcontract. This is calculated by dividing the estimated value of the subcontract by the Proposer's estimated revenue received as a result of the contract resulting from this RFP.
- iv. The total number of points awarded pursuant to this Section shall not exceed twelve percent (12%) of the total number of evaluation points in this RFP.

## **PART IV: PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

### **4.1 Performance Requirements**

Contractor to provide/install necessary equipment, perform services, deliver reports and provide supplies in accordance with contract requirements.

### **4.2 Performance Measurement**

- Implementation completed as proposed or as revised by DPS&C
- Customer service complaints less than five percent (5%) of packages sold for each program, (i.e. per quarter)
- Contractor equipment compatible with DPS&C's infrastructure.
- Equipment and Contractor provided system maintained in good working condition
- Necessary repairs and maintenance completed within twenty-four (24) hours or less, or a reasonable time frame determined by PE, as to not cause interruption in program operations
- Ongoing training and support services conducted successfully

### **4.3 Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Entrepreneurships (Veteran Initiative) and Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (Hudson Initiative) Programs Reporting Requirements**

During the term of the contract and at expiration, the Contractor will be required to report Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship subcontractor or distributor participation and the dollar amount of each.

If a contract is awarded to a Proposer who proposed a good faith subcontracting plan, the using agency, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED), or the Office of State Procurement (OSP) may audit Contractor to determine whether Contractor has complied in good faith with its subcontracting plan. The Contractor must be able to provide supporting documentation (i.e., phone logs, fax transmittals, letter, e-mails) to demonstrate its good faith subcontracting plan was followed. If it is determined at any time by the using agency, LED, or the OSP Director that the Contractor did not in fact perform in good faith its subcontracting plan, the contract award or the existing contract may be terminated.

## **ATTACHMENT A - FEE WORKSHEET**

**1. Commission of Gross Sales:** \_\_\_\_\_%

NOTE: Commissionable Gross Sales can be defined as Gross Sales minus sales tax.

## **ATTACHMENT B – SAMPLE CONTRACT**

### **SAMPLE GENERIC CONTRACT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF \_\_\_\_\_

File No. \_\_\_\_\_

Solicitation No. \_\_\_\_\_

**(NAME OF CONTRACT)**

#### **1. CONTRACT**

Be it known, that effective upon approval by the Director of State Procurement, as evidenced by the Director's signature on this document, the (*Agency Name*) (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "State") and (*Contractor's name and legal address including zip code*) (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Contractor") do hereby enter into this Contract under the following terms and conditions.

#### **2. SCOPE OF SERVICE**

Contractor hereby agrees to furnish the following services:

*(If the Scope of Services is lengthier than will fit here, it may be attached separately, referenced and incorporated herein.)*

#### **3. TERM OF CONTRACT**

This Contract is effective upon OSP approval and will end no later than *<length of term specified in the RFP>*, unless otherwise terminated in accordance with the Termination provision of this Contract. At the option of the State of Louisiana and acceptance of the Contractor, this Contract may be extended for \_\_\_\_\_ additional twelve (12) month periods at the same prices, terms, and conditions. Total contract time may not exceed \_\_\_\_\_ months.

#### **4. DELIVERABLES**

The Contractor will deliver the item(s) or service(s) as described below (or per the attached) per the following schedule.

#### **5. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

##### **5.1. PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

##### **5.2. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT/EVALUATION**

### **5.3. VETERAN-OWNED AND SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL ENTREPRENEURSHIPS (VETERAN INITIATIVE) AND LOUISIANA INITIATIVE FOR SMALL ENTREPRENEURSHIPS (HUDSON INITIATIVE) PROGRAMS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

During the term of this Contract and at expiration, the Contractor will be required to report Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship subcontractor or distributor participation and the dollar amount of each.

If the Contractor proposed a good faith subcontracting plan, the Using Agency, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED), or the Office of State Procurement (OSP) may audit the Contractor to determine whether the Contractor has complied in good faith with its subcontracting plan. The Contractor must be able to provide supporting documentation (i.e., phone logs, fax transmittals, letter, e-mails) to demonstrate its good faith subcontracting plan was followed. If it is determined at any time by the Using Agency, LED, or the OSP Director that the Contractor did not in fact perform in good faith its subcontracting plan, the contract award or the existing Contract may be terminated.

## **6. PAYMENT TERMS**

The resulting contract shall be a no cost contract to the State of Louisiana. Fees for services will be charged by the Contractor to end users, who are made up of incarcerated offenders, family members, and friends.

The Contractor shall remit commission to DPS&C in accordance with **Attachment \_ : Fee Worksheet** of this Contract.

## **7. TAXES**

The Contractor agrees that all applicable taxes are included in the Pricing Schedule set forth in **Attachment “\_”** to this Contract. State agencies are exempt from all State and local sales and use taxes.

## **8. LATE PAYMENTS**

Not required for this Contract.

## **9. TERMINATION**

The State of Louisiana has the right to terminate this Contract immediately for any of the following reasons: (a) misrepresentation by the Contractor; (b) Contractor's fraud, collusion, conspiracy or other unlawful means of obtaining any contract with the State of Louisiana; (c) conflict of contract provisions with constitutional or statutory provisions of State or Federal Law; (d) abusive or belligerent conduct by the Contractor towards an employee or agent of the State; (e) Contractor's intentional violation of the Louisiana Procurement Code (La. R.S. 39:1551 et seq.) and its corresponding regulations; or, (f) any listed reason for debarment under La. R.S. 39:1672.

### **9.1. TERMINATION OF THIS CONTRACT FOR CAUSE**

The State may terminate this Contract for cause based upon the failure of Contractor to comply with the terms and/or conditions of this Contract, or failure to fulfill its performance obligations

pursuant to this Contract, provided that the State shall give the Contractor written notice specifying the Contractor's failure. If within thirty (30) days after receipt of such notice, the Contractor shall not have corrected such failure or, in the case of failure which cannot be corrected in thirty (30) days, begun in good faith to correct such failure and thereafter proceeded diligently to complete such correction, then the State may, at its option, place the Contractor in default and this Contract shall terminate on the date specified in such notice.

The Contractor may exercise any rights available to it under Louisiana law to terminate for cause upon the failure of the State to comply with the terms and conditions of this Contract, provided that the Contractor shall give the State written notice specifying the State's failure and a reasonable opportunity for the State to cure the defect.

## **9.2. TERMINATION OF THIS CONTRACT FOR CONVENIENCE**

The State of Louisiana may terminate this Contract for convenience at any time (1) by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the Contractor of such termination; or (2) by negotiating with the Contractor an effective date. The State shall pay the Contractor for, if applicable: (a) deliverables in progress; (b) the percentage that has been completed satisfactorily; and, (c) for transaction-based services up to the date of termination, to the extent work has been performed satisfactorily.

## **9.3. TERMINATION FOR NON-APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**

The continuation of this Contract is contingent upon the appropriation of funds to fulfill the requirements of this Contract by the legislature. If the legislature fails to appropriate sufficient monies to provide for the continuation of this Contract or if such appropriation is reduced by the veto of the Governor or by any means provided in the appropriations act or Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 to prevent the total appropriation for the year from exceeding revenues for that year, or for any other lawful purpose, and the effect of such reduction is to provide insufficient monies for the continuation of this Contract, this Contract shall terminate on the date of the beginning of the first fiscal year for which funds are not appropriated.

## **10. CONTRACT MODIFICATIONS**

No amendment or modification of the terms of this Contract shall be valid unless made in writing, signed by the parties and approved as required by law. No oral understanding or agreement not incorporated in this Contract is binding on any of the parties.

Changes to this Contract include any change in a) compensation; b) beginning/ending date of this Contract; c) scope of work; and/or d) Contractor change through the assignment of contract process. Any such changes, once approved, will result in the issuance of an amendment to this Contract.

## **11. OWNERSHIP**

All records, reports, documents, or other material related to this Contract and/or obtained or prepared by the Contractor in connection with the performance of the services contracted for herein shall become the property of the State, and shall, upon request, be returned by the Contractor to the State, at the Contractor's expense, at termination or expiration of this Contract.



All records, reports, documents and other material delivered or transmitted to the Contractor by the State shall remain the property of the State, and shall be returned by the Contractor to the State at the Contractor's expense, at termination or expiration of this Contract.

## **12. USE OF AGENCY'S FACILITIES**

Any property of the State furnished to the Contractor shall, unless otherwise provided herein, or approved by the State and/or Agency, be used only for the performance of this Contract.

The Contractor shall be responsible for any loss or damage to property of the State and/or State Agency which results from willful misconduct or lack of good faith on the part of the Contractor or which results from the failure on the part of the Contractor to maintain and administer that property in accordance with sound management practices, to ensure that the property will be returned to the State and/or State Agency in like condition, except for normal wear and tear, to that in which it was furnished to the Contractor. Upon the happening of loss, or destruction of, or damage to property of the State, the Contractor shall notify the State thereof and shall take all reasonable steps to protect that property from further damage.

The Contractor shall surrender to the State and/or State Agency all property of the State and/or State Agency prior to settlement upon completion, termination, or cancellation of this Contract. All reference to the Contractor under this section shall include any of its employees, agents, or subcontractors.

## **13. WAIVER**

Waiver of any breach of any term or condition of this Contract shall not be deemed a waiver of any prior or subsequent breach. No term or condition of this Contract shall be held to be waived, modified or deleted except by the written consent of both parties.

## **14. WARRANTIES**

Contractor warrants that all services shall be performed in a workmanlike manner, and according to its current description (including any completion criteria) contained in the scope of work.

Contractor further warrants that it has the right to provide and or license its product to the State and that it will operate in accordance with this Contract. In the event of a material failure of Contractor's product to function and operate, and/or failure by the Contractor to perform its obligations, in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Contract that results in the termination of this Contract for cause by the State, the State will not be obligated to compensate the Contractor of any costs incurred by Contractor.

Extent of Warranty: THESE WARRANTIES REPLACE ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE

## **15. INDEMNIFICATION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

Neither party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance beyond its control resulting from acts of God or force majeure. The parties shall use reasonable efforts to eliminate or

minimize the effect of such events upon performance of their respective duties under this Contract.

Contractor shall be fully liable for the actions of its agents, employees, partners or subcontractors and shall fully indemnify and hold harmless the State from suits, actions, damages and costs of every name and description relating to personal injury and damage to property caused by Contractor, its agents, employees, partners or subcontractors in the performance of this Contract, without limitation; provided, however, that the Contractor shall not indemnify for that portion of any claim, loss or damage arising hereunder due to the negligent act or failure to act of the State.

Contractor will indemnify, defend and hold the State harmless, ***without limitation***, from and against any and all damages, expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), claims judgments, liabilities and costs which may be finally assessed against the State in any action for infringement of a United States Letter Patent with respect to the Products, Materials, or Services furnished, or of any copyright, trademark, trade secret or intellectual property right, provided that the State shall give the Contractor: (i) prompt written notice of any action, claim or threat of infringement suit, or other suit, (ii) the opportunity to take over, settle or defend such action, claim or suit at Contractor's sole expense, and (iii) assistance in the defense of any such action at the expense of Contractor. Where a dispute or claim arises relative to a real or anticipated infringement, the State may require Contractor, at its sole expense, to submit such information and documentation, including formal patent attorney opinions, as the Commissioner of Administration shall require.

The Contractor shall not be obligated to indemnify that portion of a claim or dispute based upon: (i) State's unauthorized modification or alteration of a Product, Material, or Service; (ii) State's use of the Product, Material, or Service in combination with other products, materials, or services not furnished by Contractor; (iii) State's use in other than the specified operating conditions and environment.

In addition to the foregoing, if the use of any item(s) or part(s) thereof shall be enjoined for any reason or if Contractor believes that it may be enjoined, Contractor shall have the right, at its own expense and sole discretion as the State's exclusive remedy to take action no later than six (6) months after the issuance of an injunction in the following order of precedence: (i) to procure for the State the right to continue using such item(s) or part (s) thereof, as applicable; (ii) to modify the component so that it becomes non-infringing equipment of at least equal quality and performance; or (iii) to replace said item(s) or part(s) thereof, as applicable, with non-infringing components of at least equal quality and performance, or (iv) if none of the foregoing is commercially reasonable, then provide monetary compensation to the State up to the dollar amount of this Contract. Any injunction that is issued against the State which prevents the State from utilizing the Contractor's product in excess of six (6) months and for which the Contractor has not obtained for the State or provided to the State one of the alternatives set forth in the foregoing sentence is cause for the State to terminate this Contract. In the event of such termination, the State will not be obligated to compensate the Contractor for any costs incurred by the Contractor.

For all other claims against the Contractor where liability is not otherwise set forth in this Contract as being "without limitation", and regardless of the basis on which the claim is made, Contractor's liability **for direct damages, shall be the greater of \$100,000, the dollar amount of this Contract, or two (2) times the charges for services rendered by the Contractor under this Contract.** Unless otherwise specifically enumerated herein mutually agreed between the parties, neither party shall be liable to the other for special, indirect or consequential damages, including lost data or records (unless the Contractor is required to back-up the data or records as part of

the work plan), even if the party has been advised of the possibility of such damages. Neither party shall be liable for lost profits, lost revenue or lost institutional operating savings.

The State may, in addition to other remedies available to them at law or equity and upon notice to the Contractor, retain such monies from amounts due Contractor, or may proceed against the performance and payment bond, if any, as may be necessary to satisfy any claim for damages, penalties, costs and the like asserted by or against them.

## **16. INSURANCE AND BONDS**

### **16.1. INSURANCE**

Contractor will be required to provide the State of Louisiana with Certificates of adequate insurance indicating coverage required, (*in accordance with Section(s) \_\_\_\_\_ of the RFP*). The Contractor shall maintain the insurance for the full term of this Contract. Failure to comply shall be grounds for termination of this Contract.

### **16.2. PERFORMANCE BOND**

Contractor shall provide a Performance Bond (Surety Bond) in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (\$\_\_\_\_\_) to insure the successful performance under the terms and conditions of this Contract. The performance bond shall be written by a surety or insurance company currently on the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Management Services list of approved bonding companies which is published annually in the Federal Register, or by a Louisiana domiciled insurance company with at least an A-rating in the latest printing of the A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide to write individual bonds up to 10 percent of policyholder's surplus as shown in the A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide or by an insurance company that is either domiciled in Louisiana or owned by Louisiana residents and is licensed to write surety bonds.

No surety or insurance company shall write a performance bond which is in excess of the amount indicated as approved by the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Management Service list or by a Louisiana domiciled insurance company with an A-rating by A.M. Best up to a limit of 10 percent of policyholders' surplus as shown by A.M. Best; companies authorized by this Paragraph who are not on the treasury list shall not write a performance bond when the penalty exceeds 15 percent of its capital and surplus, such capital and surplus being the amount by which the company's assets exceed its liabilities as reflected by the most recent financial statements filed by the company with the Department of Insurance.

In addition, any performance bond furnished shall be written by a surety or insurance company that is currently licensed to do business in the State of Louisiana.

The Contractor shall maintain the performance bond for the full term of this Contract. Failure to comply shall be grounds for termination of this Contract.

### **16.3. FIDELITY BOND**

The Contractor shall be required to provide a Fidelity Bond in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to protect the State from loss resulting from acts of crime or fraud perpetrated either by the Contractor, its agents or subcontractors or against the Contractor, its agents or subcontractors. The Department of \_\_\_\_\_ shall be the named beneficiary.

The fidelity bond furnished shall be written by a surety or insurance company that is currently licensed to do business in the State of Louisiana. The Contractor shall maintain the performance bond for the full term of this Contract. Failure to comply shall be grounds for termination of this Contract.

## **17. LICENSES AND PERMITS**

Contractor shall secure and maintain all licenses and permits, and pay inspection fees required to do the work required to complete this Contract, if applicable.

## **18. SEVERABILITY**

If any term or condition of this Contract or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other terms, conditions or applications which can be given effect without the invalid term, condition or application; to this end the terms and conditions of this Contract are declared severable.

## **19. SUBCONTRACTORS**

The Contractor may enter into subcontracts with third parties for the performance of any part of the Contractor's duties and obligations. In no event shall the existence of a subcontract operate to release or reduce the liability of the Contractor to the State and/or State Agency for any breach in the performance of the Contractor's duties. The Contractor will be the single point of contact for all subcontractor work.

## **20. SUBSTITUTION OF PERSONNEL**

If, during the term of this Contract, the Contractor or subcontractor cannot provide the personnel as proposed and requests a substitution, that substitution shall meet or exceed the requirements stated herein. A detailed resume of qualifications and justification is to be submitted to the State for approval prior to any personnel substitution. It shall be acknowledged by the Contractor that every reasonable attempt shall be made to assign the personnel listed in the Contractor's proposal.

The State shall reserve the right to require removal and replacement of any Contract personnel whose performance it considers unacceptable.

## **21. ASSIGNMENT**

Contractor shall not assign any interest in this Contract by assignment, transfer, or novation, without prior written consent of the State. This provision shall not be construed to prohibit the Contractor from assigning his bank, trust company, or other financial institution any money due or to become due from approved contracts without such prior written consent. Notice of any such assignment or transfer shall be furnished promptly to the State.

## **22. CODE OF ETHICS**

The Contractor acknowledges that Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes (La. R.S. 42:1101 et. seq., Code of Governmental Ethics) applies to the Contracting Party in the performance of services called for in this Contract. The Contractor agrees to immediately notify

the State if potential violations of the Code of Governmental Ethics arise at any time during the term of this Contract.

### **23. CONFIDENTIALITY**

The following provision will apply unless the State agency statement of work specifically indicates that all information exchanged will be non-confidential:

All financial, statistical, personal, technical and other data and information relating to the State's operations which are designated confidential by the State and made available to the Contractor in order to carry out this Contract, shall be protected by the Contractor from unauthorized use and disclosure through the observance of the same or more effective procedural requirements as are applicable to the State. The identification of all such confidential data and information as well as the State's procedural requirements for protection of such data and information from unauthorized use and disclosure shall be provided by the State in writing to the Contractor. If the methods and procedures employed by the Contractor for the protection of the Contractor's data and information are deemed by the State to be adequate for the protection of the State's confidential information, such methods and procedures may be used, with the written consent of the State, to carry out the intent of this paragraph. The Contractor shall not be required under the provisions of this paragraph to keep confidential any data or information, which is or becomes publicly available, is already rightfully in the Contractor's possession, is independently developed by the Contractor outside the scope of this Contract, or is rightfully obtained from third parties.

### **24. CONTRACT CONTROVERSIES**

Any claim or controversy arising out of this Contract shall be resolved by the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1671-1673.

### **25. RIGHT TO AUDIT**

The State Legislative auditor, federal auditors and internal auditors of the Dept. of \_\_\_\_\_, Division of Administration, or others so designated by the DOA, shall have the option to audit all accounts directly pertaining to this Contract for a period of five (5) years from the date of final payment or as required by applicable State and Federal Law. Records shall be made available during normal working hours for this purpose.

### **26. RECORD RETENTION**

The Contractor shall maintain all records in relation to this Contract for a period of at least five (5) years after final payment.

### **27. CONTRACTOR'S CERTIFICATION OF NO FEDERAL SUSPENSION OR DEBARMENT**

Contractor has a continuing obligation to disclose any suspensions or debarment by any government entity, including but not limited to General Services Administration (GSA). Failure to disclose may constitute grounds for suspension and/or termination of this Contract and debarment from future contracts.

## **28. CONTRACTOR'S COOPERATION/CLOSE-OUT**

The Contractor has the duty to fully cooperate with the State and provide any and all requested information, documentation, etc. to the State when requested. This applies even if this Contract is terminated and/or a lawsuit is filed. Specifically, the Contractor shall not limit or impede the State's right to audit or to withhold State owned documents.

## **29. SECURITY**

Contractor's personnel will comply with all security regulations in effect at the State's premises, the Information Security Policy at <http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ots/InformationSecurity.aspx> and externally for materials and property belonging to the State or to the project. Where special security precautions are warranted (e.g., correctional facilities), the State shall provide such procedures to the Contractor, accordingly. Contractor is responsible for promptly reporting to the State any known breach of security.

### **29.1 Cybersecurity Training**

A. In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1267(B)(3) and the State of Louisiana's Information Security Policy, if the Contractor, any of its employees, agents, or subcontractors will have access to State government information technology assets, the Contractor's employees, agents, or subcontractors with such access must complete cybersecurity training annually, and the Contractor must present evidence of such compliance annually and upon request. The Contractor may use the cybersecurity training course offered by the Louisiana Department of State Civil Service without additional cost or may use any alternate course approved in writing by the Office of Technology Services.

B. For purposes of this Section, "access to State government information technology assets" means the possession of credentials, equipment, or authorization to access the internal workings of State information technology systems or networks. Examples would include but not be limited to State-issued laptops, VPN credentials to credentials to access the State network, badging to access the State's telecommunications closets or systems, or permissions to maintain or modify IT systems used by the State. Final determination of scope inclusions or exclusions relative to access to State government information technology assets will be made by the Office of Technology Services.

## **30. COMMENCEMENT OF WORK**

No work shall be performed by Contractor and the State shall not be bound until such time as this Contract is fully executed between the State and the Contractor and all required approvals are obtained.

## **31. COMPLIANCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS**

The Contractor agrees to abide by the requirements of the following as applicable: Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, Federal Executive Order 11246 as amended, the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, the Vietnam Era Veteran's Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended, and Contractor agrees to abide by the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Contractor agrees not to discriminate in its employment practices, and will render services under this Contract without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, veteran status, political affiliation, disability or age in any matter relating to employment. Any act of discrimination committed by Contractor, or failure to comply with these statutory obligations when applicable shall be grounds for termination of this Contract.

### **32. ANTI-KICKBACK CLAUSE**

The Contractor hereby agrees to adhere to the mandate dictated by the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act which provides that each Contractor or subgrantee shall be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the completion of work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he is otherwise entitled.

### **33. CLEAN AIR ACT**

The Contractor hereby agrees to adhere to the provisions which require compliance with all applicable standards, orders or requirements issued under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act which prohibits the use under non-exempt Federal contracts, grants or loans of facilities included on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) list of Violating Facilities.

### **34. ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT**

The Contractor hereby recognizes the mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency which are contained in the State energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (P.L. 94-163).

### **35. CLEAN WATER ACT**

The Contractor hereby agrees to adhere to the provisions which require compliance with all applicable standards, orders, or requirements issued under Section 508 of the Clean Water Act which prohibits the use under non-exempt Federal contracts, grants or loans of facilities included on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) List of Violating Facilities.

### **36. ANTI-LOBBYING AND DEBARMENT ACT**

The Contractor will be expected to comply with Federal statutes required in the Anti-Lobbying Act and the Debarment Act.

### **37. PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATORY BOYCOTTS OF ISRAEL**

In accordance with La. R.S. 39:1602.1, for any contracts with a value of \$100,000 or more and for any Contractor with five (5) or more employees, the Contractor certifies that it is not engaging in a boycott of Israel and it will, for the duration of its contractual obligations, refrain from a boycott of Israel.

### **38. FUND USE**

Contractor agrees not to use contract proceeds to urge any elector to vote for or against any candidate or proposition on an election ballot nor shall such funds be used to lobby for or against any proposition or matter having the effect of law being considered by the Louisiana Legislature

or any local governing authority. This provision shall not prevent the normal dissemination of factual information relative to a proposition on any election ballot or a proposition or matter having the effect of law being considered by the Louisiana Legislature or any local governing authority.

### **39. HEADINGS**

Descriptive headings in this Contract are for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of this Contract or meaning of contractual language.

### **40. GOVERNING LAW**

This Contract shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, including but not limited to La. R.S. 39:1551-1736 (Louisiana Procurement Code) and La. R.S. 39:196-200 (Information Technology Procurement Code), if applicable; purchasing rules and regulations; executive orders; standard terms and conditions; special terms and conditions; and specifications listed in the RFP; and this Contract. Venue of any action brought with regard to this Contract shall be in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana.

### **41. COMPLETE CONTRACT**

This is the complete Contract between the parties with respect to the subject matter and all prior discussions and negotiations are merged into this Contract. This Contract is entered into with neither party relying on any statement or representation made by the other party not embodied in this Contract and there are no other agreements or understanding changing or modifying the terms. This Contract shall become effective upon final statutory approval.

### **42. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

The Request for Proposals (RFP), dated \_\_\_\_\_, and the Contractor's Proposal dated \_\_\_\_\_, are attached hereto and, incorporated into this Contract as though fully set forth herein. In the event of an inconsistency between this Contract, the RFP and/or the Contractor's Proposal, unless otherwise provided herein, the inconsistency shall be resolved by giving precedence first to this Contract, then to the RFP and finally, the Contractor's Proposal.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED AT \_\_\_\_\_ on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, and, IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Contract.

WITNESSES' SIGNATURES:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CONTRACTOR SIGNATURE:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

THUS DONE AND SIGNED AT Baton Rouge, Louisiana on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, and, IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Contract.

WITNESSES' SIGNATURES:

\_\_\_\_\_

STATE AGENCY SIGNATURE:

By: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of State Procurement

## **ATTACHMENT C – INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS**

The Contractor shall purchase and maintain for the duration of the contract insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by the Contractor, its agents, representatives, employees or subcontractors.

### **A. MINIMUM SCOPE AND LIMITS OF INSURANCE**

#### **1. Workers Compensation**

Workers Compensation insurance shall be in compliance with the Workers Compensation law of the State of the Contractor's headquarters. Employers Liability is included with a minimum limit of \$1,000,000 per accident/per disease/per employee. If work is to be performed over water and involves maritime exposure, applicable LHWCA, Jones Act, or other maritime law coverage shall be included. A.M. Best's insurance company rating requirement may be waived for workers compensation coverage only.

#### **2. Commercial General Liability**

Commercial General Liability insurance, including Personal and Advertising Injury Liability and Products and Completed Operations, shall have a minimum limit per occurrence of \$1,000,000 and a minimum general annual aggregate of \$2,000,000. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) Commercial General Liability occurrence coverage form CG 00 01 (current form approved for use in Louisiana), or equivalent, is to be used in the policy. Claims-made form is unacceptable.

#### **3. Automobile Liability**

Automobile Liability Insurance shall have a minimum combined single limit per accident of \$1,000,000. ISO form number CA 00 01 (current form approved for use in Louisiana), or equivalent, is to be used in the policy. This insurance shall include third-party bodily injury and property damage liability for owned, hired and non-owned automobiles.

### **B. DEDUCTIBLES AND SELF-INSURED RETENTIONS**

Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to and accepted by the Agency. The Contractor shall be responsible for all deductibles and self-insured retentions.

### **C. OTHER INSURANCE PROVISIONS**

The policies are to contain, or be endorsed to contain, the following provisions:

#### **1. Commercial General Liability and Automobile Liability Coverages**

- a. The Agency, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers shall be named as an additional insured as regards negligence by the contractor. ISO Forms CG 20 10 (for ongoing work) AND CG 20 37 (for completed work) (current forms approved for use in Louisiana), or equivalents, are to be used when applicable. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to the Agency.

- b. The Contractor's insurance shall be primary as respects the Agency, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers for any and all losses that occur under the contract. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the Agency shall be excess and non-contributory of the Contractor's insurance.

## 2. Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Coverage

To the fullest extent allowed by law, the insurer shall agree to waive all rights of subrogation against the Agency, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers for losses arising from work performed by the Contractor for the Agency.

## 3. All Coverages

- a. All policies must be endorsed to require 30 days written notice of cancellation to the Agency. Ten-day written notice of cancellation is acceptable for non-payment of premium. Notifications shall comply with the standard cancellation provisions in the Contractor's policy. In addition, Contractor is required to notify Agency of policy cancellations or reductions in limits.
- b. The acceptance of the completed work, payment, failure of the Agency to require proof of compliance, or Agency's acceptance of a non-compliant certificate of insurance shall not release the Contractor from the obligations of the insurance requirements or indemnification agreement.
- c. The insurance companies issuing the policies shall have no recourse against the Agency for payment of premiums or for assessments under any form of the policies.
- d. Any failure of the Contractor to comply with reporting provisions of the policy shall not affect coverage provided to the Agency, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers.

## **D. ACCEPTABILITY OF INSURERS**

- 1. All required insurance shall be provided by a company or companies lawfully authorized to do business in the jurisdiction in which the Project is located. Insurance shall be placed with insurers with an A.M. Best's rating of **A-:VI or higher**. This rating requirement may be waived for workers compensation coverage only.
- 2. If at any time an insurer issuing any such policy does not meet the minimum A.M. Best rating, the Contractor shall obtain a policy with an insurer that meets the A.M. Best rating and shall submit another Certificate of Insurance within 30 days.

## **E. VERIFICATION OF COVERAGE**

- 1. Contractor shall furnish the Agency with Certificates of Insurance reflecting proof of required coverage. The Certificates for each insurance policy are to be signed by a person authorized by that insurer to bind coverage on its behalf. The Certificates are to be received and approved by the Agency before work commences and upon any contract renewal or insurance policy renewal thereafter.

2. The Certificate Holder shall be listed as follows:

State of Louisiana  
Its Officers, Agents, Employees and Volunteers  
P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095  
Canteen Package Program

3. In addition to the Certificates, Contractor shall submit the declarations page and the cancellation provision for each insurance policy. The Agency reserves the right to request complete certified copies of all required insurance policies at any time.

4. Upon failure of the Contractor to furnish, deliver and maintain required insurance, this contract, at the election of the Agency, may be suspended, discontinued or terminated. Failure of the Contractor to purchase and/or maintain any required insurance shall not relieve the Contractor from any liability or indemnification under the contract.

**F. SUBCONTRACTORS**

Contractor shall include all subcontractors as insureds under its policies OR shall be responsible for verifying and maintaining the Certificates provided by each subcontractor. Subcontractors shall be subject to all of the requirements stated herein. The Agency reserves the right to request copies of subcontractor's Certificates at any time.

**G. WORKERS COMPENSATION INDEMNITY**

In the event Contractor is not required to provide or elects not to provide workers compensation coverage, the parties hereby agree that Contractor, its owners, agents and employees will have no cause of action against, and will not assert a claim against, the State of Louisiana, its departments, agencies, agents and employees as an employer, whether pursuant to the Louisiana Workers Compensation Act or otherwise, under any circumstance. The parties also hereby agree that the State of Louisiana, its departments, agencies, agents and employees shall in no circumstance be, or considered as, the employer or statutory employer of Contractor, its owners, agents and employees. The parties further agree that Contractor is a wholly independent contractor and is exclusively responsible for its employees, owners, and agents. Contractor hereby agrees to protect, defend, indemnify and hold the State of Louisiana, its departments, agencies, agents and employees harmless from any such assertion or claim that may arise from the performance of this contract.